

ALERT

The Monthly Newsletter of
First Presbyterian Church, Mt Pleasant, Iowa
902 S Walnut St, Mt Pleasant, IA 52641



Contact Information

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Church Office Hours:

Monday - Friday, 9 AM - 2 PM

Love God, Next week: Love Neighbor



The greatest commandment is to love God and another is like it, to love your neighbor as yourself.

What does it mean to love God? I think it is important to ask, "what is God?"

What do we mean when we say God? Is God nature? Is God "in" other people? One of the ways that we can talk about God is to simply say what God is not. God is not that tree. God is not my bank account. God is not that rock. Although God is a rock. We can understand what God is not. But what does it mean to say God is love?

We have had years and years of sermons on that topic. God is love means God is our redeemer. God is love means us showing God's love to other people. I think we have a good concept of what it means to say God is love. If you've been in church your whole life, you've had that lesson since your early years of Sunday school. But then, what does it mean to love God?

I am sure many of you have concepts of what God is in your mind. I am willing to bet as well that you think some of those concepts are really abstract or out of the norm. Or that it's an original wild crazy thought that you can't really share with anyone else. But I promise you there are people of genuine faith who, throughout the centuries, have thought wild, unimaginable, beautiful, and brilliant things about God. The truth is we *will* talk about God. What we realize is the more we think we know, then most likely the more we are wrong. And inverse is true: when we understand that we cannot understand, we have begun to understand.

So what does it mean to love that mystery? It means to make the unknown known, the unseen seen. Jesus says that is done by loving our neighbors. That makes the abstract love of God concrete.

Blessings, Rev. Trey Hegar

Treasurer's Report for April 2024

Year to Date Revenue: \$133,417.00; Expenses: \$128,544.00; Cash Increase (Decrease): \$4,873.00

april 2024	CURRENT MONTH	CURRENT MONTH	YEAR TO DATE	YEAR TO DATE	2024
	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>
General Pledges	\$21,928.00	\$20,173.00	\$101,906.00	\$80,693.00	\$244,886.00
From Endowment Fund	\$19,000.00	\$8,311.00	\$29,000.00	\$33,245.00	\$96,752.17
Other Revenue	\$388.00	\$201.00	\$2,511.00	\$800.00	\$18,600.00
Total Revenue	\$41,316.00	\$28,685.00	\$133,417.00	\$114,738.00	\$360,238.17
<u>EXPENSES</u>					
Pastor	\$10,681.00	\$11,206.00	\$42,720.00	\$44,522.00	\$133,567.44
personnel	\$10,145.00	\$11,120.00	\$41,708.00	\$44,478.00	\$136,507.13
Worship and Music	\$166.00	\$267.00	\$1,335.00	\$1,067.00	\$4,550.00
Adult Christian Education	\$18.00	\$108.00	\$621.00	\$433.00	\$2,300.00
Youth Christian Education	\$349.00	\$800.00	(\$357.00)	\$3,200.00	\$10,500.00
Stewardship	\$52.00	\$150.00	\$183.00	\$600.00	\$4,800.00
Building and Grounds	\$20,153.00	\$1,985.00	\$28,700.00	\$10,067.00	\$31,175.00
Operations	\$873.00	\$792.00	\$3,858.00	\$3,167.00	\$8,050.00
Technology	\$166.00	\$358.00	\$523.00	\$1,433.00	\$4,300.00
Mission	\$2,590.00	\$2,017.00	\$9,253.00	\$8,069.00	\$24,488.60
Special Giving	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$45,193.00	\$28,803.00	\$128,544.00	\$117,036.00	\$360,238.17
<u>CASH INCREASE (DECR)</u>	(\$3,877.00)	(\$118.00)	\$4,873.00	(\$2,298.00)	\$0.00

Respectfully submitted, Marvin Bricker, Treasurer

Special thanks to **Ginnie Swarm, Mariah Giberson, Marvin Bricker** and our **financial clerks** for all of their work.

Session Highlights

Session met on Sunday, May 19 following Worship in Peter's Room. The following items were moved, seconded, and passed:

- to change the current Sunday Session meeting day to the second Monday at 6 PM with Zoom option.
- to purchase 160 Lancaster stackable banquet chairs, assuming they fit on our chair storage units, and to purchase the chairs with Memorial funds.
- for the Pella Cycling Team to stay outside during RAGBRAI.
- to encourage Mission Committee participation in the June 22nd Burlington Pride on the Riverfront and the July 13 Tapestry Fest in Mount Pleasant.

Session will meet at the new time of Monday, June 10 at 6 PM in Peter's Room.

Tithes & Offerings

We ask that you continue to give to the church, so we can continue to help and support our community programs and offer programs and support to you. You may drop off your checks in the office, mail your checks to 902 S. Walnut St. or give online by copying this link <https://bit.ly/2x46F6L>.

Rev. Trey Hegar

Two-Cent-A-Meal Offering

On the first Sunday of the month we have added the Two-Cent-A-Meal offering to the Children's Moment. This offering goes to help with the Matthew 25 Initiative in fighting poverty in our community.

There are cans and/or labels available in the back of the sanctuary for you to collect your change at home.



June Worship Helpers

Sunday Morning Building Assistant:

Matt Lawler

Financial Clerk: **Tom Ellsworth**

Greeters: **Curt & Ginnie Swarm**

Communion Preparer - 6/2:

Pat Richenberger

Liturgists: June 2 **Karen Kauffman**

June 9 **Kelly Allen** June 16 **Martha Wiley**

June 23 **Sally Olson** June 30 **Lois Roth**



Book Group

Thursday, June 13 at 7 PM

Book Group will meet on Thursday, June 13, at 7 PM to discuss *The Women* by Kristin Hannah. *The Women* is Hannah's newest novel about the nurses who served in the Vietnam War. It is both an intimate portrait of coming of age in a dangerous time and an epic tale of a nation divided. Join us for lively conversation and fellowship.

Summer Matthew 25 Lecture Series

Sunday, June 23



This summer, we will be showing a series of three lectures from the Matthew 25 Summit in Atlanta earlier this year. These are powerful lectures by wonderful leaders. The first lecture will follow Worship on Sunday, June 23.

Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis is the Director of the Kairos Center for Religions, Rights, and Social Justice & Co-Chair of the Poor People's Campaign. She will share about her experience with the Poor People's Campaign and how we can make an impact on eradicating poverty in a 25-minute long lecture. All are welcome to stay after Worship for this lecture.



The Agape Ringers Bell Concert

Monday, June 24 at 7:30 PM

Join us at the First Presbyterian Church on Monday, June 24 at 7:30 PM for a concert by The Agape Ringers, Chicago's premier handbell ensemble. The concert is free-will offering, but due to limited seating, tickets will need to be reserved ahead of time from the church office. All are welcome to attend.

The concert encompasses a wide variety of musical styles from transcriptions of classical works to Broadway hits to original compositions.

You can learn more about The Agape Ringers at their website, www.AgapeRingers.org, and on Facebook and YouTube by searching for "The Agape Ringers."

Summer Brunch

Sunday, June 2 following Worship

Join us for food and fellowship following Worship on June 2. The theme is Birthday Brunch! You are invited to join in the fun of celebrating birthdays! Please sign up to bring an item or to help serve or clean up. See you in June!



Presbyterian Women Spring Fling

Thursday, June 6, 1 PM, Fellowship Hall

The Presbyterian Women will be hosting their Spring Fling on Thursday, June 6 at 1 PM in the Fellowship Hall. All women are welcome to attend. Program will be over the Harlan-Lincoln House. If you'd like, please bring a finger food to share. RSVP by contacting Susan Farnsworth (319-931-0905) or the church office.



All Ages Outdoor Movie Night

Sunday, June 9 at 7 PM, Church Lawn

We will gather to watch *Encanto*!

Encanto is an animated movie that follows a multi-generational Colombian family whose children and grandchildren receive magical gifts from a miracle which they use to help people in their rural community. Bring your chair or blanket. We'll provide the popcorn and drinks! If inclement weather, we will be in the Fellowship Hall.



Pathfinders

Saturday, June 29 at 5:30 PM

Pathfinders will be meeting on Saturday, June 29 at 5:30 PM at the Yarmouth Filling Station in Yarmouth. If you wish to carpool, please indicate on the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Space and meet at the church at 5 PM. All adults are welcome.



Matthew 25 Spotlight

Twice a month, a group of about 8-10 volunteers from our church help unload a food truck at Community Action for their food pantry. Community Action is a non-profit organization that helps low-income families in Southeast Iowa. For more information and to see a list of services they offer please visit www.caofseia.org.

PC(USA) General Assembly to meet in Salt Lake City, June 25 - July 4

Delegates will first meet in committees online and all will be present in person in Utah for the Assembly. We pray for all delegates across the country and especially those attending from East Iowa Presbytery.

July ALERT Deadline Monday, June 17

If you have an article, event, announcement, thank you, prayer concern congratulations, birthday or anniversary date that you would like included in the July ALERT, please send it into the office by the end of Monday, June 17. Thank you.

SATURDAY, JULY 13, 2024

Tapestry Fest

An event that celebrates the weaving of cultures, traditions, and perspectives.

People from all walks of life are invited to celebrate the vibrant tapestry of southeast Iowa.

1-4PM | July 13, 2024 | Central Park, Mt. Pleasant

Community 1st, PFLAG, IowaWINS, WELCOME HOME

PRAYER CONCERNS:

- Sandy Memler, Lois Betz
- Dora McDonald, Elna Tompkins
- Marilyn Vincent's cousin, Bonnie Huss
- Carol Chesnutt's mother, Carolyn Thorsen
- Chaiden Miller
- Barb Parker, nephew Chad
- Aaron Williamson's dad, Rick
- Matt Lawler's brothers, Joe & Ken
- Jack Becker's foster son, Jeremy Kitchen
- Liz & Terry Wasson's niece, Terrill
- Kelly Allen's niece, Marie Crews
- Susan Farnsworth's brother, Jeff Stanley, and brother-in-law, Doug Pederson
- Lois Roth's brother, Mark Veldhuizen, sister-in-law, Kim Veldhuizen
- Our shut-ins & those in care centers
- Israel & Palestine; Ukraine

Pastor: Rev. Trey Hegar
Music & Choir Director: Ming Vierra
Bell Choir Director: Adam Creager
Congregational Ministries Director: Rev. Sarah Hegar
AV Technician & Web Coordinator: Leo Clark
Office Assistant: Mariah Giberson
Custodians: Robert Luth

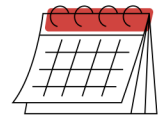
Financial Secretary: Ginnie Swarm
Treasurer: Marvin Bricker
Bookkeeper: Mariah Giberson

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June Events



Sunday Worship
Sundays at 9:45 AM, Sanctuary
Fellowship Time to follow in Gathering Space

Communion with Children's Moment
Sunday, June 2 - 9:45 AM, Sanctuary

Birthday Brunch
Sunday, June 2 following Worship, Fellowship Hall

Presbyterian Women Spring Fling
Thursday, June 6 - 1 PM, Fellowship Hall

Outdoor Movie - *Encanto*
Sunday, June 9 - 7 PM, Outdoors

Session
Monday, June 10 - 6 PM, Peter's Room

IowaWINS Board Meeting
Tuesday, June 11 - 10:30 AM, Belle Center

Book Group
Thursday, June 13 - 7 PM, Gathering Space

Happy Father's Day
Sunday, June 16

July ALERT Deadline
Monday, June 17

Burlington Pride on the Riverfront
Saturday, June 22 - 11 AM - 4 PM, Burlington

Matthew 25 Summer Lecture Series #1
Sunday, June 23 - 11 AM, Fellowship Hall

The Agape Ringers Concert
Monday, June 24 - 7:30 PM, Sanctuary

Pathfinders
Saturday, June 29 - 5:30 PM, Yarmouth

Meals by Nutrimos Selling
First and Third Sunday of the Month
10:45 - 11:15 AM, Gathering Space